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BUREAU DE LA RESPONSABILITÉ FINANCIÈRE DE L'ONTARIO (BRF)

N. Rhodes, L. Ngo, et al., « [Évaluation du plan budgétaire à moyen terme de l'Ontario](#) », 10 décembre 2018, 32 p.

Une analyse détaillée du plan budgétaire de l'Ontario, dont on prévoit une forte augmentation du déficit.

Le BRF prévoit que le déficit budgétaire de l'Ontario sera de 12,3 G\$ en 2018-2019, plus du triple qu'à l'année précédente, et le pire déficit depuis 2011-2012.

Cette aggravation marquée du déficit est le résultat d'une forte augmentation des dépenses de programmes et d'une diminution des revenus en général, après quatre années de croissance économique vigoureuse.

CENTRE CANADIEN DE POLITIQUES ALTERNATIVES (CCPA)

D. Macdonald et T. Sanger, « [A prescription for savings: Federal revenue options for pharmacare and their distributional](#)

[impacts on households, business and governments](#) », 5 décembre 2018, 45 p.

Un régime fédéral Pharmacare universel réduirait les dépenses en médicaments d'ordonnance des particuliers et des employeurs canadiens de 16,6 milliards de dollars par an, avec un coût supplémentaire de 10,4 milliards de dollars pour les gouvernements pour une économie annuelle totale de 6,1 milliards de dollars, soit plus de 160 dollars par an par personne au Canada.

Pharmacare is high on Canada's political agenda with the federal government's Advisory Council on the Implementation of National Pharmacare led by Dr. Eric Hoskins set to report by spring 2019. Pharmacare is also expected to be a key issue in the 2019 federal election.

It is well-established that a universal (single-payer) national pharmacare program could achieve huge economy-wide savings while significantly increasing access to prescription drugs, in particular for those who do not currently have a private or workplace drug plan. However, implementing such a program would also involve a significant shift in spending from the private sector to government.

A range of policy options have been proposed to finance a universal (single-payer) national pharmacare program should the federal government decide that additional fiscal capacity is required. This paper assesses these various options to determine which are the most fair and equitable, and how we can best share and distribute the considerable savings that would be generated by the introduction of a national pharmacare program.

INSTITUT C.D. HOWE

W. Robson et F. Omran, « [Wild Numbers: Getting Better Fiscal Accountability in Canada's Municipalities](#) », 13 décembre 2018, 24 p.

Des budgets plus informatifs aideraient les citoyens et les élus à mieux comprendre la situation financière de leur ville et encourageraient de meilleures décisions de financement et d'investissement.

Canada's municipalities are routinely missing the spending targets in their budgets by large amounts, undermining the ability of voters to hold them accountable, according to a new study from the C.D. Howe Institute.

In "Wild Numbers: Getting Better Fiscal Accountability in Canada's Municipalities" authors William B.P. Robson and Farah Omran compare the annual spending projections of Canada's 31 most populous municipalities over the past nine years to their end-of-year financial results. They find that in almost all these municipalities, the numbers – which are typically confusing – are badly off the mark.

INSTITUT C.D. HOWE

A. Found et P. Tomlinson, « [Business Tax Burdens in Canada's Major Cities: The 2018 Report Card](#) », 11 décembre 2018, 12 p.

Les municipalités canadiennes sont plus compétitives que les villes américaines en ce qui concerne l'impôt foncier pour les entreprises.

Before a business decides to locate or expand in a given jurisdiction, it must consider the tax implications of such an investment. Heavy tax burdens reduce potential returns, driving investment away to other jurisdictions and, with it, the associated economic benefits. Interjurisdictional comparisons of tax regimes are, therefore, important for businesses and the governments that seek to attract and retain them.

Yet there are gaps in the way Canadian governments and analysts measure the overall tax burden on business investment, primarily because they exclude business property taxes. As in previous editions, we find this omission to be of major significance: business property taxes account for about half the total tax burden on business investment in municipalities we examine.

Recognizing the US Tax Cuts and Jobs Act's importance, we have extended our examination to major American competitor municipalities, comparing them to the largest municipalities in our Canadian group. When only commonly analyzed federal and provincial/state business taxes are considered, the American and Canadian groups appear equally competitive. This is consistent with results obtained by other analysts. However, once property taxes and various local taxes are incorporated into the analysis the Canadian municipalities emerge with a notable competitive advantage.

INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE ET D'INFORMATIONS SOCIOÉCONOMIQUES (IRIS)

J. Posca, « [Réforme de la taxe scolaire: un choix risqué pour les écoles québécois](#) », 6 décembre 2018, 4 p.

La réforme de la taxe scolaire crée plus de problèmes qu'elle prétend n'en résoudre, que ce soit en matière de financement des commissions scolaires ou encore en matière d'équité fiscale.

Le ministre québécois des Finances Éric Girard a déposé un projet de loi visant à diminuer et à uniformiser la taxe scolaire au plus bas taux régional existant, soit 10,54 ¢ par tranche de 100 \$ d'évaluation foncière. La baisse s'étalera sur quatre

ans. Cette annonce fait partie du plan du gouvernement élu le 1er octobre pour « remettre de l'argent dans le portefeuille des Québécois ». Cette réforme devrait entraîner une réduction de la taxe scolaire variant, selon les régions, entre 0 et 500 \$ pour une résidence valant 280 000 \$. Le gouvernement compensera cette baisse de revenus en augmentant les transferts aux commissions scolaires.



ÉTATS-UNIS

HERITAGE FOUNDATION

A. Michel, « [Universal Savings Accounts Can Help All Americans Build Savings](#) », 4 décembre 2018, 10 p.

La proposition du *Family Savings Act* de 2018 sur les comptes d'épargne universels est un pas dans la bonne direction, mais le gouvernement américain devrait songer à un plafond de contribution plus élevé et à une augmentation de celui-ci annuellement.

Universal Savings Accounts (USAs) reduce taxes on savings and help families build their own financial security through a single, simple, and flexible savings account. USAs have proven successful around the world, supporting savers and giving them the flexibility to save for their own priorities. The USA proposal included in the Family Savings Act of 2018—part of “Tax Reform 2.0”—is a good first step toward simplifying the American savings system and removing tax disincentives to putting money away for future use. The current USA proposal is well designed but too limited. The annual contribution limit should be set higher and roll over from year to year. Congress should also consider automatically increasing the contribution limit each year. This would allow USAs to incrementally become Americans’ primary savings vehicle.

INSTITUTE ON TAXATION AND ECONOMIC POLICY (ITEP)

S. Warmhoff et R. Phillips, « [The Federal Estate Tax: An Important Progressive Revenue Source](#) », 6 décembre 2018, 10 p.

Le pourcentage de successions assujetties à l'impôt sur les successions a considérablement diminué aux États-Unis entre 2000 et aujourd'hui.

For years, wealth and income inequality have been widening at a troubling pace. One study estimated that the wealthiest 1 percent of Americans held 42 percent of the nation's wealth in 2012, up from 28 percent in 1989. Lawmakers have exacerbated this trend by dramatically cutting federal taxes on inherited wealth, most recently by doubling the estate tax exemption as part of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Further, lawmakers have done little to stop aggressive accounting schemes designed to avoid the estate tax altogether. This report explains how the percentage of estates subject to the federal estate tax has dropped dramatically from 2.16 percent in 2000 to just 0.06 percent in 2018, a 34-fold decrease in 19 years.

Inheritances account for 40 percent of all wealth and 4 percent of annual household income. Researchers estimate that differences in inheritances explain about 30 percent of the correlation between parent and child incomes—more than IQ, schooling and personality combined. The estate tax is one key tool to moderate the accumulation of dynastic wealth and level the playing field between those who inherit wealth and those who depend primarily on earned income.

In the end, the estate tax is about fairness. The wealthiest families benefit the most from what the government provides: public investments such as roads that make commerce possible, public schools that provide a productive workforce, the stability provided by our legal system and armed forces, the protection of private property. These public investments make America a place where families can earn and sustain huge fortunes.

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST OFFICE (LAO)

M. Taylor, « [Evaluation of a Sales Tax Exemption for Certain Manufacturers](#) », 11 décembre 2018, 24 p.

L'exemption CAEATFA chevauche le programme d'exemption partielle pour

les équipements de fabrication, de R & D et l'équipement lié à l'électricité.

The California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA) administers a sales tax exemption for equipment used for certain manufacturing activities. (Many people refer to this program as an exclusion rather than an exemption.) Under current law, this program will end on January 1, 2021. Public Resources Code 26011.8(g) requires our office to report on the effectiveness of the program—including its economic, fiscal, and environmental effects—by January 1, 2019. This report fulfills that statutory requirement.

TAX FOUNDATION

J. Walczak, J. Bishop-Henchman, et al., « [South Carolina: A Road Map For Tax Reform](#) », 3 décembre 2018, 129 p.

Quatre options de réforme fiscale pour la Caroline du Sud.

In the following pages, we examine South Carolina's economy, outline the existing tax structure, and offer recommendations for reforming the tax code. We seek to identify what the state does well and to point out opportunities for improvement. Underlying our analysis is the goal of enhancing South Carolina's competitive standing and a commitment to the principles of sound tax policy—that, to the greatest extent possible, taxes should be simple, transparent, neutral, and stable, and that the best tax structures are those with broad bases and low rates.

In the course of our research, we pored over South Carolina's tax code, dusted off old tax studies, reviewed the economic literature, and examined successful reforms implemented by other states. First and foremost, however, we talked to South Carolinians: state and local government officials, business leaders, and everyday taxpayers alike. The insights and perspectives of those who actually interact with South Carolina's tax system inform every page of this book.

The South Carolina Chamber Foundation commissioned the Tax Foundation to prepare a review of the South Carolina tax system and recommend possible solutions, and this book is the result.

While they supported our study, they did not direct our study or any of our recommendations. We offer our thanks to the many South Carolinians of all walks of life who met with us as we worked on this book. It is our hope that this book will help reform a robust and much-needed debate about the future of the state's tax code.



INTERNATIONAL

FONDS MONÉTAIRE INTERNATIONAL (FMI)

R. Boadway et L. Eyraud, « [Designing Sound Fiscal Relations Across Government Levels in Decentralized Countries](#) », IMF Working Paper No. 18/271, 10 décembre 2018, 44 p.

L'équilibre vertical ne peut être évalué directement puisqu'il n'existe pas de définition précise des niveaux adéquats de dépenses publiques ni de ce qu'est un effort fiscal acceptable.

This paper discusses how decentralized countries can achieve sound fiscal relations between the central government and lower government levels. The concepts of “vertical gap” and “vertical balance” provide an analytical framework for identifying and addressing key challenges. These concepts can help policymakers ensure that the financing of subnational governments (composed of transfers received from the center, own revenues, and borrowing) is both efficient and adequate given the allocation of spending responsibilities. More generally, the paper offers some perspectives about the optimal design of decentralization systems by examining the sequencing and economic principles underlying revenue and expenditure assignments, the use of transfers, and borrowing.

FONDS MONÉTAIRE INTERNATIONAL (FMI)

M. Francese et D. Prady, « [Universal Basic Income: Debate and Impact Assessment](#) », IMF Working Paper No. 18/273, 10 décembre 2018, 24 p.

Les compromis auxquels les décideurs sont confrontés dans l'évaluation des programmes de dépenses sociales ont des implications qui vont au-delà de la performance du système.

This paper discusses the definition and modelling of a universal basic income (UBI). After clarifying the debate about what a UBI is and presenting the arguments in favor and against, an analytical approach for its assessment is proposed. The adoption of a UBI as a policy tool is discussed with regard to the policy objectives (shaped by social preferences) it is designed to achieve. Key design dimensions to be considered include: coverage, generosity of the program, overall progressivity of the policy, and its financing.

INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL STUDIES (IFS)

E. French, J. Bailey Jones, E. Kelly et J. McCauley, « [End-of-Life Medical Expenses](#) », IFS Working Paper No. 18-18, 12 décembre 2018, 38 p.

Dans les pays sans assurance publique universelle, les soins de fin de vie posent des risques financiers importants aux ménages âgés et à leurs aidants naturels.

In this review, we document end-of-life medical spending: its level, composition, funding, and contribution to aggregate medical spending. We discuss how end-of-life expenses affect household behavior and economic evidence on the efficacy of medical spending at the end of life. Finally, we document recent trends in health and chronic disease at older ages and discuss what they might imply for end-of-life spending and medical spending in the aggregate.

INSTITUTE FOR FISCAL STUDIES (IFS)

N. Crafts, « [Industrial Policy in the Context of Brexit](#) », 10 décembre 2018, 22 p.

Une question importante est de savoir si la politique industrielle réduit la concurrence: elle devrait être utilisée pour la favoriser et non pour créer des « champions nationaux ».

This paper reviews UK industrial policy in the context of Brexit and weak productivity performance. It considers proposals made in a recent White Paper as well as more general arguments for reform now that the 'post-Thatcher consensus' has ended. The desirability of improving horizontal policies in the areas of innovation, infrastructure and skills is noted. In the event of a hard Brexit, there would be an opportunity to return to 1970s-style selective industrial policies and public-interest-based competition policy. An advantage of a soft Brexit is that it would preclude interventionism of this kind.

INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH (IPPR)

R. Statham et R. Gunson, « [A Progressive Future for Income Tax in Scotland?](#) », 12 décembre 2018, 20 p.

En donnant un allègement fiscal aux particuliers à revenu élevé, l'Écosse risque de rater la cible pour ses promesses d'éradication de la pauvreté.

The Scottish government begins the budget process for Scotland on 12 December 2018, publishing its draft budget for 2019/20. This will see the Scottish government set out its plans for devolved taxes and spending in devolved policy areas for the coming year. The draft budget will face parliamentary scrutiny over the coming months before being finalised, potentially with amendments, before the end of February 2019. Given the current make-up of the Scottish parliament, and the minority SNP government, the Scottish government will need one or more opposition parties to back their plans.

This briefing report looks ahead to the Scottish government's draft budget for 2019/20, focusing on some of the implications of changing the devolved higher rate tax threshold in Scotland.

Part one outlines the implications of increasing Scotland's thresholds with inflation or matching the UK government's announced tax cut for higher earners in the rest of the UK (rUK) from 2019/20. Part two proposes alternative options for Scotland's higher rate tax threshold, alongside potential implications for social security spending and associated reductions in relative child poverty.

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC FINANCE

V. Arčabić, « [Fiscal convergence and sustainability in the European Union](#) », Public Sector Economics, vol 42. No. 4, 14 décembre 2018, 28 p.

Alors que les politiques fiscales des États membres de l'Union européenne divergent fortement, quelques groupes d'États aux politiques convergentes se forment.

This paper analyzes fiscal convergence and sustainability in the European Union using data on government debt, revenues, and expenditures. Absolute fiscal divergence is present in the EU, especially after the sovereign debt crisis. However, we find evidence of fiscal club convergence when clubs are endogenously determined. Club convergence is important for the EU because there is no single fiscal policy and member states' policies are heterogeneous. Endogenous clubs do not share the usual geographical, political, or development similarities. Fiscal policy in the EU is found to be unsustainable, but it is countercyclical.

We use a policy response function where the primary surplus is a function of public debt and the output gap. The primary surplus does not respond to changes in public debt, and this is considered to be unsustainable. However, it increases in expansions and decreases in recessions thus being countercyclical. The countercyclical primary surplus is important for smoothing business cycles.

ORGANISATION DE COOPÉRATION ET DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUES (OCDE)

OCDE, « [Consumption Tax Trends 2018: VAT/GST and Excise Rates, Trends and Policy Issues](#) », 5 décembre 2018, 207 p.

L'utilisation des taxes à la consommation est croissante pour influencer certains comportements de consommation, mais un potentiel considérable reste inexploité.

Consumption taxes accounted for 30.6% of total tax revenues in OECD countries in 2016, on average. While the share of all taxes on consumption (taxes on general consumption plus taxes on specific goods and services) as a percentage of total tax revenue has remained relatively stable since 1975, the composition of consumption taxes has fundamentally changed. Over time, OECD countries have relied increasingly on taxes on general consumption. Since 1975, the share of these taxes as a percentage of GDP in OECD countries has increased considerably from 4.1% to 7.0%. They presently raise 20.8% of total tax revenue on average, compared with 13.4% in 1975. VAT has become the largest source of taxes on general consumption, accounting on average for 6.8% of GDP and 20.2% of total tax revenue in OECD countries in 2016. While revenues from taxes on general consumption fell between 2005 and 2009, as a consequence of the global economic crisis, they have now returned to the pre-crisis levels largely due to the rise in standard VAT rates in many countries. In contrast to this increase, revenues from taxes on specific goods and services, the bulk of which are excise taxes, have fallen over time as a percentage of GDP (from 4.6% in 1975 to 3.3% in 2016) and as a percentage of total tax revenue (from 17.7% in 1975 to 9.8% in 2016).

ORGANISATION DE COOPÉRATION ET DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUES (OCDE)

OCDE, « [Revenue Statistics in Asian and Pacific Economies](#) », 29 novembre 2018, 137 p.

Plusieurs pays de l'Asie du Pacifique ont vu leur revenus fiscaux diminuer par rapport au PIB, soulignant l'importance des mesures de conformité efficaces.

In 2016, tax-to-GDP ratios in the Asia and Pacific region ranged from 11.6% in Indonesia to 31.6% in New Zealand. The tax-to-GDP ratio refers to total tax revenue, including social security contributions, as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP). All countries in this publication had lower ratios in 2016 than the OECD average of 34.0% and half of the economies included in this publication had tax-to-GDP ratios above the Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) average of 22.7%. [...]

Economies in Asia and the Pacific rely predominantly on goods and services taxes and on income taxes. In six economies in this publication (the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Thailand), taxes on goods and services accounted for the largest share of tax revenues in 2016. Within goods and services, VAT is an important and increasing source of revenues in most economies. In 2016, VAT revenue ranged from 12.9% of total tax revenue in Australia to 46.1% of total tax revenue in the Cook Islands (the Solomon Islands and Tokelau do not impose VAT) and was higher as a share of total taxes in the Pacific compared to Asian economies. In the Pacific economies that apply a VAT, VAT accounted for more than 25% of revenues in 2016 except in Australia and Papua New Guinea. In contrast, VAT revenue generated less than 25% of total tax revenue in 2016 in all Asian countries except Indonesia. [...]

This publication also includes non-tax revenues for four Pacific economies (the Cook Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Tokelau). In 2016, non-tax revenues as a percentage of GDP were significant for the Cook Islands and Tokelau but lower than 5% in Papua New Guinea and Samoa.

ORGANISATION DE COOPÉRATION ET DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUES (OCDE)

OCDE, « Statistiques des recettes publiques 1965-2017 - Étude spéciale: Convergence des niveaux d'imposition et des structures fiscales dans les pays de l'OCDE », 5 décembre 2018, 192 p.

Il y a une convergence des pays de l'OCDE quant au ratio des recettes

fiscales par rapport au PIB, la moyenne ayant augmenté à 34% en 2016.

Depuis 1995, les niveaux d'imposition et la composition des recettes fiscales dans les pays de l'OCDE ont convergé vers un ratio moyen des recettes fiscales rapportées au PIB plus élevé et un rôle plus important joué par les taxes sur la valeur ajoutée, les cotisations de sécurité sociale et les impôts sur les bénéfices des sociétés, tandis que la part des impôts sur le revenu des personnes physiques et d'autres formes d'impôts sur les biens et services recule. Ces tendances se sont poursuivies en 2017, et le ratio moyen des recettes fiscales rapportées au PIB des pays de l'OCDE a continué de croître pour atteindre 34.2 %.

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